

Serial No. 09/901,134
Docket No. C14-134438M/YAH

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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-23 and 26-30 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-23 and 26-30 are allowed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-3, 5-6 and 9-30 are allowable.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,007) (hereinafter "Wu").

Applicants submit that Wu does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention of claims 24 and 25. However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, and to place the Application in a condition for immediate allowance, Applicants have canceled claims 24 and 25, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

Applicants again point out to the Examiner that a foreign priority document, JP 2000-209784 was filed July 10, 2001 with the Application, and a corresponding claim to foreign priority was made. The Examiner has not yet acknowledged Applicants' claim to foreign priority. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge Applicants' claim to foreign priority and acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority document filed on July 10, 2001.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-23 and 26-30, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: January, 12, 2005



Scott M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,317

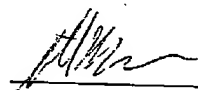
Sean M. McGinn
Registration No. 34,386

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
Intellectual Property Law
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Angelica Perez, Group Art Unit 2684 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 12th day of January 2005.



Scott M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,317

Sean M. McGinn
Registration No. 34,386

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